

MINUTES OF THE 37th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 25.02.2019 AT NEW DELHI.

The 37th Meeting of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) was held on 25.02.2019 under the chairmanship of Secretary (EF&CC). The list of participants, including members of NCZMA and the representatives from Coastal Zone Management Authorities in the State/UTs is given at **Annexure**. The deliberations held and decisions taken in the meeting are as under:

1. Presentation by Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority on CZMPs of the State of Andhra Pradesh:

Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority (APCZMA) made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) of all the nine coastal districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was informed that these plans have undergone stakeholder's meetings and duly approved by the State Government. It was also informed that objections/suggestions received from various stake holders have been examined and suitably incorporated as admissible. It was further informed by Director, NCSCM that the CZMPs of Andhra Pradesh have been scrutinised by the Sub-Committee constituted for the task, at NCSCM, Chennai and are in order.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended its approval of the CZMPs of Andhra Pradesh.

2. Presentation by Gujarat Coastal Zone Management Authority on CZMPs of 12 Districts, in Gujarat:

Representatives of the State Governments made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) in respect of 12 districts in Gujarat viz. Gir-Somnath, Surat, Navsari, Junagarh, Valsad, Amreli, Porbandar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Anand, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar. It was informed that CZMP of Kutch and Morbi districts are still pending for finalisation. It was further informed that CZMPs of two other coastal districts in Gujarat viz. Ahmedabad and Baruch have been already approved by the NCZMA. The official(s) also stated that these CZMPs of the 12 districts presented were scrutinized at NCSCM, Chennai by the Sub-Committee constituted for the task. It was further informed that the CZMPs have undergone public consultations and finalized thereafter after having incorporating admissible suggestions/comments.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended its approval of the CZMPs of the 12 districts of Gujarat.

3. Presentation by Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority on CZMPs of 10 districts in the State of Kerala:

Representatives of the State Governments made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) in respect of all the 10 coastal districts of Kerala viz. Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. It was also informed that there are changes in tidal limits/HTL in creeks/rivers and some areas added to CRZ due to changes in tidal limits between 1996, 2011 and 2018 and changes in CRZ categories. It was also stated that these

plans were scrutinized at NCSCM, Chennai by the Sub-Committee constituted for the task. It was further informed that the CZMPs have undergone public consultations and finalized thereafter.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended its approval of the CZMPs of Kerala.

4. Presentation by Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority on CZMPs of the Palghar & Thane and Navi Mumbai districts in Maharashtra:

Representatives of the State Governments made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) in respect of Palghar & Thane and Navi Mumbai districts of Maharashtra. The CZMP of five districts of Maharashtra viz. Mumbai city, Mumbai Sub-Urban, Raigarh, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg of the State of Maharashtra have been already approved by the NCZMA. The official(s) also stated that these plans were scrutinized at NCSCM, Chennai by the Sub-Committee constituted of the task and forwarded to the NCZMA for its approval. It was further informed that the CZMPs have undergone public consultations and finalized thereafter.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended for approval of the CZMPs of Thane & Palghar and Navi Mumbai..

5. Presentation by Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority on amendment of IIMPs of Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat:

The NCZMA was informed that a reference was earlier received from the UT administration of Lakshadweep requesting for amendment of IIMPs of Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat. It was also informed that ready 10 IIMPs in Lakshadweep have been approved by the NCZMA including the IIMPs of Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat. The UT administration has proposed to promote pilot tourism projects in three uninhabited Islands viz. Minicoy, Suheli and Kadmat, for which NCSCM, Chennai has made an elaborate guideline on construction of water villas in these Islands in Lakshadweep based on tourism carrying capacity carried out for these Islands. The UT administration informed the NCZMA that they have studied the pros and cons of water villas in the islands and due concerns of the ecosystem of the Island would be taken care of, as suggested in the guidelines formulated by NCSCM.

It was also further informed that selection of the Island for proposed pilot project shall be based on the developments proposed in the IIMP and keeping in mind the recommendations of Justice Raveendran Committee Report endorsed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The NCZMA noted that the IIMPs are elaborate and in consonance with the suggestions/recommendations made in the tourism carrying capacity of the Islands. The NCZMA however recommended that the proposal for development of water villas in the Islands can be recommended strictly as a pilot project on a case to case basis subject to strict compliance of the guidelines formulated by NCSCM and based on recommendation of Lakshadweep CZMA to the MoEFCC for approval. The NCZMA further recommended that the UT administration in consultation with the Sub-Committee of NCSCM constituted for review of CZMPs/IIMPs shall decide the Island for which the first pilot project of water villa can be taken up. It was also decided that based on the experience gathered in the course of

implementation of the pilot water villa project, extension to other Islands can be decided at a later stage.

6. Presentation by West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority on rectification of errors in approved CZMPs of West Bengal:

Representative of West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBCZMA) made a presentation and informed that as stated in the last meeting of the NCZMA, the errors noted in CZMP in respect of West Bengal were reviewed by the Sub-Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shailesh Nayak in its meeting held on 18.02.2019. Three issues were flagged before the CZMA viz. (i) defining CRZ category in Sundarban areas; (ii) extent of HTL near Diamond Harbour; and (iii) CRZ classification of Canning Town.

Regarding Sundarbans area, it was informed that as the Sundarban areas has also been designated as a Biosphere Reserve, the CRZ Notification, 2011 defines the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR) as CRZ-I and therefore for identifying coastal regulation zone as per the said notification, the areas between beyond 500 m of HTL and in case of a creek, 100 m beyond HTL or width of creek is outside CRZ. Accordingly, areas beyond 500 m of HTL and beyond 100 m of HTL of width of the Creek, in the SBR are outside CRZ regulations. However, the whole of SBR has been erroneously categorized as CRZ-IA, even though it was earlier categorized as CRZ-II.

In this regard, the NCZMA decided that since Sundarban areas already has a population exceeding 43 lakhs with public utilities in place, the conflict between two legislations should be avoided and the government needs to have an implementable instrument for regulation of the activities in the area. The NCZMA therefore decided that categorization of CRZ in the SBR may be redone in consonance with delineation of HTL and CRZ boundaries as defined and not cover the entire SBR.

On the issue of extent of HTL near Diamond Harbour, it was stated that the HTL is limited to southern municipal limit of Diamond Harbour as per the CZMP approved in 1996, whereas, the HTL limit in the new plan demarcated by NCSCM extends beyond this limit on the western bank. The NCZMA was also informed of the data on salinity point monitored periodically by Kolkatta Port Trust (KTP), Ministry of Shipping and representative of WBCZMA informed that as per this data too, the 5 ppt point ends at southern municipal limit of Diamond Harbour and thus the same should be maintained.

The NCZMA deliberated the above issue and decided that the HTL may be limited to southern municipal limit of Diamond Harbour, subject to 5 ppt salinity data of KTP owned and endorsed by WBCZMA after verification from an authorized NABL accredited laboratory.

The representative of WBCZMA stated that Canning town is a sub-divisional town since the British era and is categorized as CRZ-III since there are no legal documents to substantiate its urban characteristics.

In this regard, the NCZMA observed that the classification of CRZ-II or CRZ-III is purely on declaration/notification of a town or area as an urban conglomerate by the concerned authority in the State. The NCZMA therefore decided that the State Government may first provide documentary proof of declaration of Canning town as an urban area for consideration of reclassification of the same as CRZ-II.

6. Report of the Expert Committee constituted for review of IPZ Notification, 2011 / ICRZ Notification, 2018 and others:

Joint Secretary (CRZ), MoEFCC informed the NCZMA that an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shailesh Nayak, (Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences) was constituted for a comprehensive review of the IPZ Notification, 2011, the ICRZ Notification, 2018 and other issues related to the Island regulations. He also informed that the report of the Expert Committee has been finalized and made a brief presentation. He further informed that there are certain provisions in the draft ICRZ Notification, 2018 which require minor modification based on the recommendation of this Expert Committee as follows:

- NDZ in Creeks /tidally influenced water bodies for larger ICRZ Islands may be fixed at 20 m as against the 50 m prescribed in the draft ICRZ Notification, 2018.
- Buffer around mangrove of more than 1000 sq.m may be kept 20 m as against 50 m for mangrove more than 1 ha area mentioned in the Draft ICRZ Notification, 2018. These provision for mangrove buffer is a new addition and was not available in the IPZ Notification, 2011.
- Inclusion of enabling provision for water sports activity facilities in ICRZ-II and III areas.
- Inclusion of enabling provision for infrastructure facilities for marine Coastal Police in CRZ areas.
- Inclusion of enabling provision for mining of atomic minerals in CRZ areas akin to provisions in CRZ Notification, 2019 as per representation of IREL, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.
- Neil and Long Island may be governed by IIMPs as these islands are very small having geographical areas less than 20 sq.m and is comparable in size with the Islands governed by IIMPs.

The NCZMA noted the recommendations of the Expert Committee, and accepted the same and decided that it may be suitably incorporated while finalizing the draft ICRZ notification, 2018.

The NCZMA was also informed that the Sub-Committee has decided that based on geographical area, population etc. ICRZ Island may be grouped into two categories viz. Group-I Islands: Islands with geographical areas >1000 sq.km viz. South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Great Nicobar and Group-II Islands: Islands with geographical areas >100 sq.km but < 1000 sq.km viz. Baratang, Little Andaman, Havelock and Car Nicobar.

The NCZMA was further informed that the Expert Committee has recommended that the CRZ Limits, NDZ in CRZ-III and NDZ for eco-tourism in CRZ-III in Group-I Islands may be retained as per existing limits but for the Group-II Islands there is a need for review of these limits based on the geographical areas, forest cover, population, land availability for development etc. In this regard, The NCZMA decided that the same may be worked out early based on scientific inputs by the Expert Committee constituted for review of IPZ Notification, and submit the same to MoEFCC for a final decision.

7. Any other item with the permission of the Chair:

There being no agenda item left the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

Annexure

| S.No. | Name of Participant | Organisation |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1. | Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary | MoEFCC, New Delhi |
| 2. | Shri Ritesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary | MoEFCC, New Delhi |
| 3. | Shri G. Anantha Raman, Principle Secretary | EFS&T Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh |
| 4. | Dr. R. Ramesh, Director | NCSCM, Chennai |
| 5. | Shri T. P Singh, Adviser | MEITY |
| 6. | Shri Anil Diggikar, Principle Secretary (Environment) | Government of Maharashtra |
| 7. | Shri. Indeva Pandey, Additional Chief Secretary | Department of Forest & Environment, Govt. of West Bengal |
| 8. | Shri S.K Bhandari, PCCF& Member Secretary, ANZMA | A&N Administration |
| 9. | Shri S. M. Saiyad, Director | Environment & Forest Department, Government of Gujarat |
| 10. | Shri V D Prasanna Kumar Joint Secretary | Kerala CZMA, Thiruvananthapuram |
| 11. | Shri Shailesh Nayak | NIAS |
| 12. | Shri Shyamal Tikadae | Gujarat Ecology Commission |
| 13. | Shri Nischul Joshi | Gujarat Ecology Commission |
| 14. | Shri. Ashok Chauhan | Forests & Environment department, Government of Gujarat |
| 15. | Shri Udit Prakash, DC | A&N Administration |
| 16. | Shri Bssprasad, Chairman | A.P. Pollution Control Board |
| 17. | Shri S. Surendra, Additonal Chief Planner | Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs |
| 18. | Shri Shreeshail Hegde, Director | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 19. | Dr. M. V. Ramana Murthy | Ministry of Earth Sciences, National Centre for Country Reserve |
| 20. | Shri Siddhartha Roy, Sr. Environment Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests | Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal |
| 21. | Shri D Bhowmick, IESWM | Govt. of West Bengal |
| 22. | Ms Pramita Sinharay, IESWM | Govt. of West Bengal |
| 23. | Shri. P. Kalaiarasan, EE | Department of Kerala, KCZMA |
| 24. | Shri. Karthikeya S Langote | MPCB, Govt of Maharashtra |
| 25. | Ms. Urmi Shrivastava, Director | Ministry of Defense |
| 26. | Shri A. Subba Rao , Sr. Environment Engineer | A.P. Pollution Control Board |
| 27. | Shri G Varaprasad, Project Manager | A.P. Pollution Control Board |
| 28. | Shri M. Dharma Raj | NCSCM, Chennai |
| 29. | Shri W. Bharat Singh, Director (CRZ) | MoEF&CC |
| 30. | Shri Satyendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary & APD, SICOM | MoEF&CC |
| 31. | Dr. P. Saranya, Deputy Director | MoEF&CC |